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STAMP

Washington Whispers

Items appearing on this page are being talked about in Washington

Russians Unpopular in Cuba A White House Plan To "Guide" Press Harvest Worries Mao

Soundings of opinion made for the White House show that the American people, by a big majority, are tired of being pushed around by the Communists and will risk war if that is what it takes to stop the retreat.

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Gen. Maxwell Taylor, newly appointed military adviser to the President, is setting up a staff of five military assistants and three secretaries. President Kennedy is determined not to be caught again, as in Cuba, with a military decision to make on the basis of inadequate information.

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The story that Chester Bowles, Under Secretary of State, was to leave the Department of State was fed out by the White House itself. Signals were changed when there were objections from party "liberals," and President Kennedy applied the political maxim that it is not wise to move an official under fire.

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U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, is being referred to as the next Under Secretary if and when Chester Bowles does accept another position. Livingston T. Merchant, Ambassador to Canada, also is being mentioned for the post. Both are career officers in the Department of State.

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At a baseball game in Washington on July 19, a voice on the public-address system called out: "Will the chauffeur of Secretary Udall please report to the parking lot." A loud clatter of shoes came from the crowd, which appeared not sympathetic with the idea of a public official—the Secretary of the Interior—riding to a ball game in a chauffeur-driven car.

President Kennedy is described as a little less free than formerly in expressing presidential opinions to his personal friends among newspaper men. The President is discovering that his slightest word can have more impact than he realized, sometimes leading to embarrassment.

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There are reports once again that Allen Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will step out of that job late this year on his own motion. If true, there is no outward sign—and no successor is in sight.

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On an opinion-sounding tour, this quip about Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman was heard several times in the Middle West: "The only reason that a Minnesota boy got into the Kennedy Cabinet was that Harvard University doesn't have a college of agriculture."

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An observer in Mexico, in close touch with events in Cuba, reports this: "Cubans often are finding their Russian advisers to be overbearing and inflexible, with contempt for the local people. This is a marriage that cannot last forever."

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The flood of refugees from Communist rule in East Germany would be even higher except for the fact that East German farmers figure that there is no place for them on farms of the West. These farmers are the only group not easily absorbed into the West German economy.

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Word is passed at the White House that if the nation's newspapers are willing to go along with President

Kennedy's suggestion for "self-discipline" and "self-restraint" in publishing news that affects national security, then the White House will name a responsible official to "guide" the press. The suggestion of such guidance is not being jumped at.

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Some high officials in the Kennedy Administration, acting to block almost any move to shore up the railroads, are reported to think it would not be too bad if the Government had to take over bankrupt railroad systems. It is pointed out that Government-owned railroads in other countries are the basis on which big political machines are built.

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Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Harvard historian and writer, is playing less of a role as adviser at the White House.

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Theodore Sorensen, Special Counsel to the President, and McGeorge Bundy, who handles security affairs for the President, are emerging as the two principal members of the White House staff.

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Red China's Mao Tse-tung is reported by diplomats in Peiping to be worried about the political unrest that will develop if the current harvest turns out to be a bad one, as expected.

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Democratic politicians are predicting that Mayor Robert Wagner of New York is more likely than not to be defeated for renomination by Arthur Levitt, New York State comptroller, in the Democratic primary on September 7. Most of the Democratic organization in New York is lining up back of Mr. Levitt.